



TENNESSEE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

What is an Active Shooter and where do they attack?

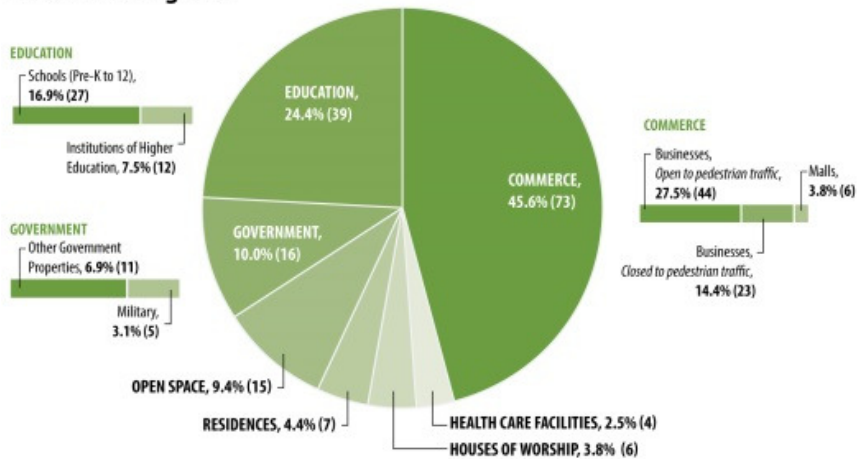
According to the United States Department of Homeland Security,

"An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims."

There is no profile for who might become a violent offender and their reasons for why they commit their crimes may vary. Keep in mind that most Active Shooters typically will make no demands. Their goal is simply to harm as many people as possible. To that end, they are most likely going to be heavily armed and committed to that goal.

These acts of violence have occurred in schools, shopping malls, office buildings, and other public locations. No place appears to be immune. According to a recent Federal Bureau of Investigation report (Sept 2013) places of commerce have the highest likelihood.

A Study of 160 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 - 2013:
Location Categories



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2014

Studies have also shown us that the number of Active Shooter incidents has been increasing.¹ This trend indicates the need for the public to be alert and prepared. While the average attack may last only minutes, you will very likely have to make split second decisions critical to your survival.

¹ Years 2000-2006 the annual average number of incidents was 6.4. During the years 2007-2013 the annual average increased to 16.4. Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation. (September 16, 2013). *A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013*.